

Reference code: GB165-0289

Title: Owen Tweedy Collection

Name of creator: Tweedy, Owen Meredith (1888-1960) Journalist and Civil Servant

Dates of creation of material: 1926-1952

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 7 boxes

Biographical history: TWEEDY, Owen Meredith (1888-1960)

Born 1888 in Dublin, son of Henry Tweedy and Alice Tweedy (née Meredith). Educated at Clifton College; Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. Commissioned in Connaught Rangers, 1914; served in Gallipoli, Salonika and Palestine campaign; Military Intelligence, 1917; seconded to Foreign Office, 1919; Assistant Oriental Secretary, Cairo, 1919-1925; political journalist with *Fortnightly Review*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, the *Daily Telegraph*, and the *Financial Times* 1925-33; Press Officer, Palestine Government, 1936-1941; Principal Information Officer, Middle East, 1941-1944; Regional Adviser, Middle East, B.O.A.C. in Cairo, 1944-48. Unmarried. Died 5 May 1960.

Scope and content: Papers relating to his service in the Middle East, journalism and exploration, 1926-52, with diaries of trips to Russia, 1930, and Germany, 1933. Photograph collection.

System of arrangement: Diaries; correspondence; press-cutting volumes

Access conditions: Open

Language of material: English

Physical Condition: Much of the collection has been annotated in red biro by Thomas Crowe for his edition of *Gathering Moss*

Conditions governing reproduction: No restrictions on copying or quotation apart from statutory regulations and preservation concerns

Custodial history: In the possession of Owen Tweedy and later of his sister Mrs. Charles Breese

Immediate source of acquisition: Received as a gift from Mrs. Breese, Nov 1967 and Apr 1968

Finding aids: In Guide; Handlist

Publication note: Much of the collection appears in published form: *By Way of the Sahara: the African Odyssey of three men and a grocer's van* by Owen Tweedy, pub. 1930; *Russia at Random* by Owen Tweedy, pub. 1931; *Cairo to Persia and back* by Owen Tweedy, pub. 1933; *Gathering Moss: a memoir of Owen Tweedy* edited by Thomas Crowe, pub. 1967

Archivist's note: Fonds level description created by C. Brown 4 November 1999 and revised by D. Usher 23 October 2003. File and item level description created by C. Brown 3 November 1999 and revised by D. Usher 31 May 2007

**FILE AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION FOR THE OWEN TWEEDY
COLLECTION**

Boxes 1-4 Diaries 1926-1931; 1933; 1949; 1951-1952

Box 1

Cairo, Port Sudan, Jeddah, Palestine and Transjordan

1/1	Vol. 1 Journey to Egypt, Cairo	9 Nov. 1926-6 Jan. 1927
1/2	Vol. 2 Cairo	7-30 Jan. 1927
1/3	Vol. 3 Cairo, Sudan	30 Jan.-28 Feb. 1927
1/4	Vol. 4 Sudan, Jeddah, Cairo	28 Feb.-2 April 1927
1/5	Vol. 5 Cairo, Jerusalem, Amman	3-26 April 1927
1/6	Vol. 6 Amman, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Acre, Beirut, Cyprus	4-18 May 1927
1/7	Vol. 7 Cyprus, Beirut, Damascus, Baalbek, Tripoli, Cairo	18 May-10 June 1927

2nd Odyssey

1/8	Vol. 1 Journey to Egypt, Cairo	27 Oct.-26 Nov. 1927
1/9	Vol. 2 Cairo, Jerusalem and Palestine tour	26 Nov.-16 Dec. 1927
1/10	Vol. 3 Jerusalem, Beirut, Cyprus, Cairo, Sudan	16 Dec. 1927-17 Jan. 1928
1/11	Vol. 4 Sudan, Eritrea	17 Jan.-8 Feb. 1928
1/12	Vol. 5 Eritrea, Sudan, Jeddah	8 Feb.-4 March 1928
1/13	Vol. 6 Jeddah, Sudan, Jeddah, Cairo	5 Mar.-4 April 1928
1/14	Vol. 7 Cairo, Athens, Gallipoli campaign battlefields	4-18 April 1928
1/15	Vol. 8 Gallipoli campaign battlefields, Istanbul	18-26 April 1928
1/16	Vol. 9 Istanbul, Ankara, Istanbul, Athens, Corfu	26 April-19 May 1928

Box 2

3rd Odyssey, including material for *By Way of the Sahara*

2/1	Vol. 1 Journey to Egypt, Cairo, Jerusalem, Cairo	6-31 Dec. 1928
2/2	Vol. 2 Sudan, Nile journey, Uganda,	1-27 Jan. 1929
2/3	Vol. 3 Uganda, Kenya	28 Jan.-17 Feb. 1929
2/4	Vol. 4 Zanzibar, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Belgian Congo	18 Feb.-20 Mar. 1929

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|-----|---|----------------------|
| 2/5 | Vol. 5 French Equatorial Africa | 20 Mar.-2 April 1929 |
| 2/6 | Vol. 6 Nigeria, French Niger Province, Sahara | 2-19 April 1929 |
| 2/7 | Vol. 7 Sahara, Algeria | 19 April-1 May 1929 |

4th Odyssey

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|------|---|--------------------------------|
| 2/8 | Vol. 1 Journey to Egypt, Cairo, Jerusalem | 3-30 Dec. 1929 |
| 2/9 | Vol. 2 Jerusalem, Haifa, Beirut, Cyprus, Ankara | 30 Dec. 1929-1919 Jan.
1930 |
| 2/10 | Vol. 3 Ankara, Istanbul | 19-24 Jan. 1930 |

5th Odyssey - the basis for *Russia at Random* published 1931

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|------|---|----------------|
| 2/11 | Vol. 1 Baltic cruise: Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Russia | 1-8 Aug. 1930 |
| 2/12 | Vol. 2 Leningrad entries edited as chapters 1-6 | 8-11 Aug. 1930 |
| 2/13 | Vol. 3 Leningrad and Moscow entries edited as chapters
6-11 | 1930 |
| 2/14 | Vol. 4 Moscow and Leningrad entries edited as chapters
11-15 | 1930 |
| 2/15 | Vol. 5 Leningrad entries edited as chapters 15-16 | 1930 |

Box 3

7th Odyssey - the basis for *Cairo to Persia and back* published 1933

[Volumes containing entries for 25 Dec. 1930-10 Feb. 1931 and 15 April-31 May 1931 not received]

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|-----|---|-----------------------|
| 3/1 | Vol. 2 Sinai, Jerusalem, Haifa, Tiberias, Sidon | 11-27 Feb. 1931 |
| 3/2 | Vol. 3 Sidon, Beirut, Tripoli, Latakia, Aleppo, Mosul | 27 Feb.-23 Mar. 1931 |
| 3/3 | Vol. 4 Mosul, Baghdad, Kermanshah, Kasvin, Tehran | 23 Mar.-14 April 1931 |

Germany (as Special Correspondent to *The Daily Telegraph*)

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|-----|---|---------------------|
| 3/4 | Vol. 1 Journey through France and Belgium to Aachen,
Bonn, Coblenz, Limburg, Kassel, Göttingen, Hannover,
Hamburg, Kiel, Lübeck, Berlin | 10 Feb.-7 Mar. 1933 |
| 3/5 | Vol. 2 Berlin, Danzig, Marienburg, Berlin, Görlitz,
Dresden, Leipzig, Coburg, Bamberg, Nuremberg, | 7-30 Mar. 1933 |

	Frankfort, Darmstadt, Heidelberg, Heilbronn	
3/6	Vol. 3 Stuttgart	31 Mar.-1 April 1933
	Holiday in Ireland	21 Aug.-14 Sept. 1949

Box 4 Middle East Diary (as Special Correspondent to *The Daily Telegraph*)

4/1	Vol. 1 Flight from Heathrow; Baghdad, Basra, Kuwait, Khartoum	1-19 Dec. 1951
4/2	Vol. 2 Khartoum, Cairo, Cyprus	20 Dec. 1951-6 Jan. 1952
4/3	Vol. 3 Cyprus, Beirut, refugee camps in Lebanon, Damascus, Amman, Jerusalem	7-31 Jan. 1952
4/4	Vol. 4 Jerusalem, Beirut, Cyprus, Cairo (with descriptions of the riots), Benghazi	1-20 Feb. 1952
4/5	Loose top copies of the Middle East diary. 287 sheets	1 Dec. 1951-20 Feb. 1952

Box 5 Correspondence and writings 1921; 1925; 1934; 1936-1948; 1951

Correspondence

5/1	Letters from Lord Allenby and Sir Archibald Clerk-Kerr	1921; 1925	3 sheets
5/2	Correspondence from Jerusalem including circular letters to his family	1934; 1936-1939	81 sheets
5/3	Correspondence from Jerusalem and Cairo including circular letters to his family	1940-43	55 sheets
5/4	Correspondence from Cairo including circular letters to his family	1944-1946; 1948	126 sheets
5/5	Correspondence from Coney Island, Basra and Khartoum including circular letters to his family	1951	17 sheets

Writings

5/6	TS of Tweedy's unpublished book <i>Egypt in Outline</i>	[1945]	148 sheets
5/7	Script of "The Christening" broadcast by Tweedy for <i>Children's Hour</i> , BBC Home Service	20 Oct 1951	6 sheets

